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(54) CARCINOSTATIC AGENT

(57) Abstract:

PURPOSE: To obtain a carcinostatic agent, containing dioscin isolated from *Dioscorea tokoro* Makino of the family *Dioscoreaceae* as an active ingredient and having powerful inhibitory action on proliferation of cancerous cells with high safety.

CONSTITUTION: A carcinostatic agent containing 3-O-(2-O- α -L-rhamnopyranosyl-4-O- α -rhamnopyranosyl- β -D-glucopyranosyl-diosgenin (dioscin) expressed by the formula as an active ingredient. The aforementioned compound is obtained by extracting *Dioscorea tokoro* Makino with water, ethanol or a mixed solvent of water and ethanol, concentrating the resultant extract solution, then purifying the residue by column chromatography in the normal phase system and column chromatography in the reverse phase system, further the column chromatography in the normal phase system and subsequently recrystallizing the prepared substance from methanol.

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